

Fall 2023 | www.volunteergrandparents.ca

Bridging Generations Newsletter

FALL 2023 EDITION

PROGRAM UPDATE

Our Family Match Program and School Grandparent Programs are both open. We are accepting new program volunteers and families and trying to find matches for existing waiting volunteers and families.

Additionally, our Letters To Seniors Program remains busy. We have begun collecting kind holiday messages to be distributed in December to seniors living in care homes. We thank all of our volunteers who have made this program such a success.

We hope everyone had a wonderful Grandparents Day on September 10th. We thank the City of Burnaby for proclaiming the date and for hanging Volunteer Grandparents' banner on the City Overpass.

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INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAM GUIDELINES BY RACHELLE PATILLE

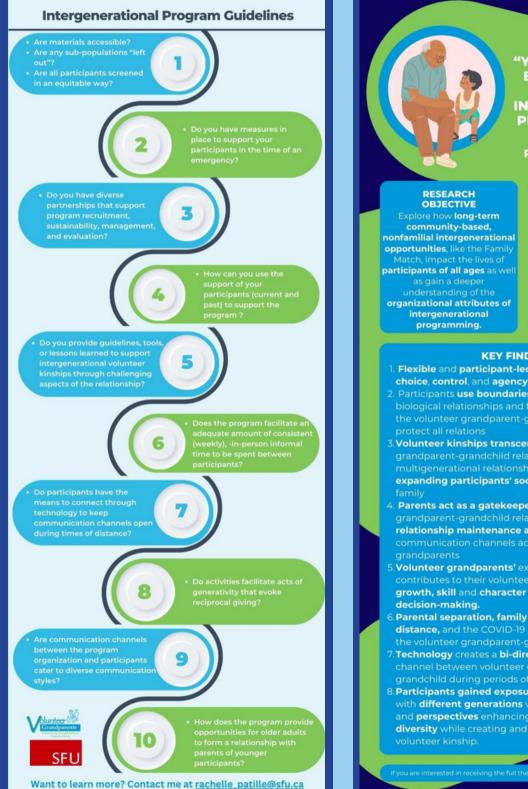
THANK YOU TO THE CITY OF BURNABY

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

HONOURING OUR FOUNDER

INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAM GUIDELINES BY RACHELLE PATILLE

WE THANK ALL OF THE FAMILIES AND VOLUNTEERS FROM OUR ORGANIZATION WHO PARTICIPATED IN HER RESEARCH



"YOU DON'T HAVE TO **BE RELATED TO BE** FAMILY": AN INTERGENERATIONAL **PROGRAM IN METRO** VANCOUVER

RACHELLE PATILLE, MA

PARTICIPANT OVERVIEW

Explore how long-term community-based, nonfamilial intergenerational opportunities, like the Family participants of all ages as well organizational attributes of intergenerational

5 younger adults 60% male 40% female

4 older adults

1 program provider

KEY FINDINGS

- 1. Flexible and participant-led programming creates choice, control, and agency among participants
- 2. Participants use boundaries to keep unsupportive
- 3. Volunteer kinships transcend beyond volunteer expanding participants' social support networks and
- 4. Parents act as a gatekeeper to the volunteer relationship maintenance and longevity by keeping
- 5. Volunteer grandparents' expression of generativity contributes to their volunteer grandchildren's personal growth, skill and character development, and decision-making.
- 6. Parental separation, family dynamics, physical distance, and the COVID-19 pandemic actively strained
- 7. Technology creates a bi-directional communication
- 8. Participants gained exposure and purposeful contact with different generations where they shared cultures and perspectives enhancing their acceptance of diversity while creating and maintaining a long-term



City of Burnaby Volunteer Grandparents would like to express our deep gratitude to the City of Burnaby for providing us with funding and always being a strong source of support for the organization and our mission. We have worked with the city once again this year to proclaim September 10th as Grandparents Day. Volunteer Grandparents is thankful for their support and shared belief in the importance of grandparents and the strength of intergenerational connections.

JOIN OUR LETTERS TO SENIORS PROGRAM AND BUILD MEANINGFUL PEN-PAL RELATIONSHIPS!

For more information, visit volunteergrandparents.ca or contact info@volunteergrandparents.ca

Volunteer Grandparents recognizes and commemorates the history and ongoing legacy of residential schools and the trauma experienced by so many. Every child matters!

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

HONOURING OUR FOUNDER: MARJORIE ANDERSON

As Volunteer Grandparents celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, it is important to go back to the beginning and recognize the hard work of our founder, Marjorie Anderson. The passion and love of Marjorie Anderson set the tone for the work that we continue to this day. She strongly believed in the importance of older adults and the power of intergenerational connections.

> "How can children, without the benefit of at least one older person, grow up to feel that they belong, are part of the continuum of mankind, are part of something larger, and hence become adults responsible for part of that?"

- Marjorie Anderson